

December 14, 2004

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

At a time when our service men and women are being asked to extend their tours of duty away from family and loved ones, we ought to reward their resolve, not further strain their connections to home. Needless to say, I am dismayed to learn that the FCC is considering raising the cost for our troops to call home using the pre-paid calling cards that virtually all of them use. The Commission must not take any action that would make it more expensive to use pre-paid calling cards.

The cards have proven to be a valuable asset not just to those serving abroad also to the men and women stationed on bases around the country. Our troops are able to call friends and family for just pennies a minute and now would be a terrible time for the FCC to impose new charges on calling cards that would increase prices by as much as 20%.

Believe me that a 20% increase in the cost of pre-paid calling card service will send a clear message to our troops that bureaucrats in Washington are making policies without any concern for the impact on soldiers on the ground. Even the slightest increase in the price of keeping in touch will unnecessarily place an even greater strain on the already fragile morale of our troops.

Please do the right thing and keep the cost of prepaid calls low. Our troops and their families deserve no less.

Sincerely,



Brian Fletcher, CSC
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cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein